

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0455

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES ON GUINEA-BISSAU INDEPENDENCE

SUMMARY: WE RECOMMEND MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENTS CABRAL AND SPINOLA ON SEPTEMBER 10 WELCOMING INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND CONGRATULATING SPINOLA FOR HIS ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. WE FEEL THAT DATE OF FORMAL TRANSFER OF POWER BY PORTUGAL TO PAIGC CONSTITUTES UNIQUE AND HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY FOR FORD ADMINISTRATION TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS AND, AT SAME TIME, PROVIDE STATEMENT OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT SPINOLA WHICH WILL HELP STRENGTHEN CENTRIST POLITICAL FORCES IN PORTUGAL. WE ASSUME PROPER GUINEA-BISSAU RECIPIENT FOR PRESIDENTIAL TELEGRAM WOULD BE PRESIDENT LUIS CABRAL AND THAT DELIVERY WOULD HAVE TO BE EFFECTED IN CONAKRY. IF THIS PRESENTS DIFFICULTIES, CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO USING FORMAT OF WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE CONTAINING MESSAGE APPLICABLE TO BOTH G-B AND PORTUGAL.

2. IN EVENT SEPARATE MESSAGES TO RESPECTIVE PRESIDENTS
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ARE TO BE SENT, WE WOULD SUGGEST SOMETHING ALONG

FOLLOWING LINES WOULD BE USEFUL FOR OUR PURPOSES HERE:

QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I AM WELL AWARE THAT ONE
OF THE MOST DIFFICULT CHALLENGES FACING YOU UPON YOUR
ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
PORTUGAL WAS THE PROBLEM OF THE FUTURE OF PORTUGAL'S
AFRICAN TERRITORIES. TODAY, AS YOU FORMALLY TRANSFER
POWER FROM PORTUGAL TO THE INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU, YOU DEMONSTRATE TO THE
WORLD THE SINCERITY OF THE NEW PORTUGAL'S DETERMINATION
TO ACHIEVE SOLUTIONS IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA WHICH ARE
RESPONSIVE TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLES OF THOSE
TERRITORIES. PARAGRAPH. YOUR ACTION TODAY REFLECTS
DECISIVENESS, REALISM, AND COURAGE. YOUR POSSESSION
OF THESE TRAITS HAS EARNED YOU YOUR COUNTRY'S
HIGHEST HONORS IN THE PAST AND PROVIDES THE
PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AND THEIR FRIENDS, AMONG WHOM
THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD TO BE NUMBERED, WITH
FULL CONFIDENCE THAT THE MANY OTHER CHALLENGES THAT
FACE YOU AT HOME AND ABROAD IN THE FUTURE WILL BE
MET SUCCESSFULLY. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU CAN
COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES AS YOU
LEAD YOUR COUNTRY ON THE ROAD TO GENUINE DEMOCRACY.
UNQUOTE.

SCOTT

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TAGS: PFOR, PO, US, PU, (FORD, GERALD R), (CABRAL, LUIS), (SINOLA)
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